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Executive for Inspection and Security

27 February 1948

Acting Deputy for Security

Meeting with the Civil Service Commission Representatives on the Loyalty Program

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In accordance with instructions, [REDACTED] and myself met with Mr. Hatcher, Chief, Investigation Division, Mr. Hugh Crowe and Mr. Kimbell Johnson, of the Civil Service Commission, on Friday, February 20 to discuss the application of the Loyalty Program to CIA, as proposed in the February 6, 1948 letter from Mr. Mitchell, Civil Service Commission, to the Director, Central Intelligence.

The position of this Agency concerning the responsibility for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure was explained to the Commission's representatives and they indicated appreciation and understanding of these responsibilities. It was explained that these responsibilities did not permit the making known outside of CIA any roster or list in any form which would tend to disclose the strength of the CIA organization or indicate individuals employed by this Agency. It was further explained that security regulations did not permit a discussion of the Agency's organization, internal operating procedures, or specifics concerning investigation and clearance of personnel. The Commission's representatives were informed that CIA desired to cooperate to the fullest extent with the Civil Service Commission in any way possible consistent with our responsibilities for protecting intelligence sources and methods and that we wished to discuss with the Commission's representatives the letter of Mr. Mitchell dated February 6 in order to explore how CIA could meet the requirements of the Civil Service Commission and yet maintain its security of operations.

Mr. Hatcher discussed the requirement under the Loyalty Program that all employees be finger printed and name checked against the records of the FBI. He was informed that CIA would be in a position to certify that such finger prints and name checks had been conducted but that we could not submit the standard reporting forms utilized by the Commission, as this would indicate a complete roster of CIA personnel. Mr. Hatcher believed that such a certification for incumbent personnel as of September 30, 1947 and employees appointed subsequent to that date and to be employed in the future would be suitable for the Commission's reporting purposes to the President. He stated, however, that this would have to be approved by the Commission. There was considerable discussion as to the establishment of the date after which all employees should be finger printed and name checked. The establishment of such a date, however, apparently has not been settled by the Commission and accordingly we indicated that our certification would be based from May 1946, when such finger prints and name checks were initiated on the present CIA organization.

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The Commission's representatives were informed that the scope of investigation of CIA employees was larger than that required by the Loyalty Order and approximated what is termed a full field investigation. In like manner, the criteria for security determination on employee suitability was considerably more exacting than that required by the Loyalty Order.

Mr. Hatcher did not raise the question of CIA submitting its investigative files to the Civil Service Commission, after adjudication, for possible further investigation.

The question of supplying information on the investigation of CIA employees for the master index was discussed and we stated that supplying of information in this form would be incompatible with the responsibilities of the Director for protection of intelligence sources and methods. Further, that such a listing in the master index would clearly expose the names and strength of CIA personnel. The Commission's representatives indicated that they appreciated this problem and in accordance with CIA's interpretation of the National Security Act that furnishing of such information for the master index would be against the Agency's responsibilities and interests.

Mr. Hatcher raised the question as to whether, in the course of name checking and finger printing of CIA employees against FBI records, derogatory information concerning the loyalty of an employee was developed, this Agency would submit such to the FBI for a full investigation in accordance with the Loyalty Program. We stated, without indicating who would conduct the investigation, that any investigation of this nature would be as extensive as required under the Loyalty Order. We further stated that unless it would be inconsistent with the Director's responsibilities, an investigation in such case would be conducted by the FBI in accordance with the Loyalty Program.

The meeting was very friendly and the Commission's representatives indicated that they appreciated our position and our desire to cooperate wherever possible, consistent with our responsibilities.

It was agreed that we would reply to Mr. Mitchell's letter of February 6 setting forth those specific points of certification that this Agency could make to the Civil Service Commission in order that the Commission might consider such as being satisfactory for fulfillment of the Loyalty Program. Mr. Hatcher stated that upon receipt of this letter the problem would then be presented to the Commission for consideration.

The furnishing by this Agency, as indicated in the penultimate paragraph of the proposed letter to Mr. Mitchell, of information for the master index on those cases where derogatory information was developed and as a result of which the applicant was not employed, was inserted after discussion

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with Colonel Edwards and would indicate to the Commission our earnest desire to cooperate. At the time of our meeting with the Commission's representatives this specific problem was not discussed as we had indicated that furnishing of any information on incumbent employees would be contrary to our best interests.

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